(a) whether Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. has completed the gauge conversion of Bhiladi-Samdari;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the gauge conversion would be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The work has been planned for completion during 2008-09. Gauge conversion of the entire stretch from Samdlari-Bhidi is, however, likely to be completed by September, 2009. The preliminary work to start mega block is in progress and expected to be completed by middle of November, 2008. Mega block may start from November/ December, 2008.

(c) The project is expected to be completed by September, 2009.

Modernisation of Mumbai local trains

†914. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite huge revenues from Mumbai local trains adequate facilities are not provided to the passengers;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to run trains equipped with modern coaches like Delhi Metro and to modernize all the Mumbai local train stations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) New technology AC/DC EMU coaches with better interiors/exteriors and forced ventilation system are being introduced in Mumbai suburban in phased manner to provide better comforts to the passengers.

(b) and (c) As such, there is no plan to introduce EMUs on pattern of Delhi Metro in Mumbai suburban. However, introduction of air condition class in EMUs for which feasibility study is currently under way in Western Railway.

(d) Does not arise.

Extension of rail route upto Shirdi

†915. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is expanding rail route upto Shirdi in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of the work carried out so far; and

(c) until when this rail route would be completed and the railway traffic become operational thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Land acquisition (103.35 hectare), major bridges (3 nos.) and minor bridges (41 nos.) have been completed. The earthwork to the tune of 7.87 lac cum out of 8.25 lac cum completed. Track linking has been started.

(c) This rail route is targeted for completion by December, 2008. The line will be commissioned to passenger traffic after inspection and authorization by Commissioner of Railway Safety.

Budgetary provision for conversion/ upgradation of broad gauge in Gujarat

916. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal to his Ministry for making adequate budgetary provision for conversion/upgradation of broad gauge in respect of certain lines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the budgetary provision for each line approved for conversion/ upgradation; and

(d) by when the work relating to conversion/upgradation would likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) As per available records, requests had been received in the past from Government of Gujarat for allotment of adequate funds for completion of following ongoing projects:-

Project	Outlay provided during 2008-09	Status and Target date for completion, wherever fixed
1	2	3
i) Veraval-Somnath new line and Wansjalia-Jetalsar gauge conversion of Rajkot-Veraval gauge conversion	Rs. 80 crore	Veraval-Somnath new line completed. Wansjalia-Jetalsar gauge conversion is likely to be completed by 2009-10.
ii) Surendranagar- Dhrangadhara section of Surendranagar-Pipavav gauge conversion project	Rs. 1 crore	Main line work completed. Surendranagar-Dhrangadhara target not yet fixed.
iii) Viramgam-Mahesana-Patan gauge conversion project	Rs. 40 crore	Gauge conversion completed.
iv) Bharuch-Dahej gauge conversion	Rs. 5 crore	Project is being implemented through Special Purpose Vehicle for which share holder agreement has been signed. Concession agreement finalized. Target date for completion is 2009-10.
v) Rajpipla-Ankleshwar	Rs. 15 crore	Detailed estimate sanctioned.
vi) Pratapnagar-Chhota Udepur	Rs. 55 crore	Pratapnagar-Dabhoi (35 Kms.) sections has been commissi-oned. Balance section is likely to be completed by 2008-09.